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## Infowars host Alex Jones files for personal bankruptcy

Infowars host Alex Jones filed for personal bankruptcy protection Friday in Texas, citing debts that include nearly \$1.5 billion he has been ordered to pay to families who sued him over his conspiracy theories about the Sandy Hook school massacre.

Jones acknowledged the filing on his Infowars broadcast, saying the case will prove that he's broke and asking viewers to shop on his website to help keep the show on the air.

For years, Jones described the 2012 massacre as a hoax. A Connecticut jury in October awarded victims' families \$965 million in compensatory damages, and a judge later tacked on another \$473 million in punitive damages. Earlier in the year, a Texas jury awarded the parents of a child killed in the shooting \$49 million in damages.

The bankruptcy filing temporarily halted all proceedings in the Connecticut case.

Chris Mattei, an attorney for the Sandy Hook families in the Connecticut case, said in a statement, "Like every other cowardly move Alex Jones has made, this bankruptcy will not work. The bankruptcy system does not protect anyone who engages in intentional and egregious attacks on others, as Mr. Jones did. The American judicial system will hold Alex Jones accountable, and we will never stop working to enforce the jury's verdict."

Jones has laughed at the awards on his Infowars show, saying he has less than \$2 million to his name and won't be able to pay such high amounts. A forensic economist at the Texas trial said Jones and his company Free Speech Systems have a combined net worth as high as \$270 million. Free Speech Systems is also seeking bankruptcy protection.

A third trial over Jones' comments on Sandy Hook is expected to begin within the next two months in Texas, in a lawsuit brought by the

parents of another child killed in the shooting. — AP December 2, 2022

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones on Wednesday said he has less than \$12 million of the \$1.5 billion he owes the families of Sandy Hook school shooting victims, but they immediately questioned the accuracy of his statements.

Jones said in a court filing that it would be "functionally impossible" for him to pay the defamation verdicts in full, and that he needs more time to file detailed financial reports.

Jones also said that he would not "give up his public life, or discontinue public discourse" as part of a bankruptcy settlement. -- Reuters Dec 7, 2022

## Report: California gun data breach was unintentional

California's Department of Justice mistakenly posted the names, addresses and birthdays of nearly 200,000 gun owners on the internet because officials didn't follow policies or understand how to operate their website, according to an investigation released Wednesday.

The investigation was conducted by an outside law firm hired by the California Department of Justice.

The data was exposed just days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that people have a right to carry guns in public. The decision invalidated a California law that said people must give a reason for wanting to carry a concealed weapon, such as a threat to their safety. Lawmakers then tried to pass new restrictions for concealed carry permits, but failed.

Investigators said they "did not uncover any evidence that the timing of the (data breach) was driven by a nefarious intent or was personally or politically motivated in any way." Instead, they said state officials planned to publish what they thought was anonymous data "to meet anticipated heightened public interest in firearms-related data" following the court ruling.

Chuck Michel, an attorney and president of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, said the association is preparing a lawsuit against the state and is encouraging people impacted by the exposure to talk with an attorney about filing their own lawsuits.

Officials at the California DOJ did not know about the breach until someone sent Attorney General Rob Bonta a private message on Twitter that included screenshots of the personal information that was available to download from the state's website, the investigation said.

State officials at first thought the report was a hoax. Two unnamed employees investigated and mistakenly assured everyone that no personal information was publicly available.

Meanwhile, the website crashed because so many people were trying to download the data. Another group of state officials worked to bring the website back online, unaware of the breach. They got the website working again at about 9:30 p.m.

State officials would not disable the website until about noon the next day. By then, the information had already been downloaded thousands of times.

Investigators found that no one — neither the employee who compiled the data nor the officials that supervised the employee — knew the proper security settings to prevent the data from being available for public download.

Other information was also mistakenly released, including data from firearms safety certificates, dealer record of sale and the state's assault weapons registry. That data included dates of birth, gender and driver's license numbers for more than 2 million people and 8.7 million gun transactions. But investigators said there wasn't enough information in those datasets to identify anyone.

Investigators recommended more training and planning for state officials, including a review and update

of policies and procedures. -- AP  
November 30, 2022

## **Donald Trump Doesn't Respect (or Even Understand) the Constitution**

By Bonnie Kristian

The "revelation" that former President Donald Trump supports the "termination" of the U.S. Constitution is hardly worthy of the name.

Trump's comment—which he posted to Truth Social on Saturday and vehemently denied on Monday—is a slightly more explicit rejection of constitutional constraints than he's ventured in the past. But it's perfectly in line with his longstanding opposition to any inviolable limits on state power when that power is in his own hands, or at least wielded for his benefit. That Trump has never cared about the Constitution is the most obvious thing in the world.

This was evident well before Trump entered politics. One early indicator was his disturbing affection for eminent domain, the government's authority to take private property for public use provided it makes "just compensation" to the owner. Eminent domain is grounded in the Fifth Amendment, so the concept is not unconstitutional, but in 2005 the Supreme Court substantially expanded the doctrine, allowing "public use" to include *private* development the government happens to think is a good idea.

The potential for corruption is clear, and the deeply unpopular ruling, *Kelo v. New London*, remains controversial to this day—but Trump loved it. He agreed with it "100 percent," he said on Fox News, and he had the personal history to prove it. In the late 1990s, he tried to use eminent domain to evict an elderly widow from her home in Atlantic City and replace it with a limousine lot for his casino.

Thanks to the efforts of the Institute for Justice, a libertarian public interest law firm, the widow kept her home.

On both the campaign trail and as president, while insisting he is "with the Constitution 100 percent," Trump made his anti-constitutionalism apparent. In 2015, he said he "tend[s] to err on the side of security" over liberty where privacy rights and the war on terror are concerned. He talked of "look[ing] at the mosques" and implementing a national Muslim registry, two First Amendment violations.

In 2017 he said constitutional checks and balances that required him

to share power with Congress are a "very rough" and "archaic" system, which is "a really bad thing for the country." That fall, he said asserting Fifth Amendment rights is proof of guilt. In 2018, he floated unilaterally ending birthright citizenship in violation of the 14th Amendment.

In 2019, Trump repeatedly claimed Article II of the Constitution gave him "the right to do whatever I want." The same year, he argued he should be able to abuse national emergency declarations to expand his own power beyond constitutional boundaries because Democrats would do the same thing if given the chance. In 2020, he reportedly expressed interest in declaring martial law though the constitutional preconditions for it, per *Ex parte Milligan* (1866), had not been met. And just last month, he called for executing drug dealers after a two-hour trial modeled on communist China's justice system, a blatant rejection of constitutional due process. By the standard of many of his Republican supporters, even Trump's record on the Second Amendment falls short.

The easy explanation for this perjurious disregard for the Constitution is Trump's self-acknowledged greed and willingness to ignore reality itself if it serves his purposes. I would venture that Trump's mindset on government is an odd and dangerous anachronism, a holdover from the pre-Enlightenment era when power accrued by right of status instead of being duly apportioned by law. Trump has no use for the Constitution because his is a medieval perspective, his ideal society a world of natural hierarchy—and he, of course, at the top, even if he has to terminate the Constitution to get there.

I ought to conclude with a list of concrete steps Trump's Democratic opponents have taken over the last two years, while in control of the House, Senate, and White House, to meaningfully curtail the power of the president. I *ought* to be able to end this article that way, But I can't, because Democrats have done no such thing; robust structural limits for the executive are, as ever, too big an ask. It's

almost like selfish disdain for the Constitution isn't confined to Donald Trump. -- Daily Beast December 8, 2022

## **Florida man convicted in Jan 6 insurrection**

A Florida man who posted a Facebook video of himself during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol faces

more than two decades in prison following a felony conviction.

A District of Columbia federal judge found Bradley Weeks, 44, of Macclenny, FL, guilty Friday of a felony count of obstruction of an official proceeding, along with four misdemeanors.

Weeks faces up to 20 years in prison for the felony and up to three years total for the lesser charges.

Several people tipped off FBI agents about the video Weeks had posted on Facebook about his participation, officials said. In one post, he turned the camera to show his face while at the Capitol and detailed what he had done.

Weeks also gave an interview to the Baker County Press, which posted a screenshot of Weeks under the headline, "Local man involved in Capitol siege," the FBI said.

-- AP December 12, 2022

## **BLM founder Patrisse Cullors spends thousands renovating backyard of posh \$1.4M LA home**

The controversial Marxist co-founder of Black Lives Matter recently completed tens of thousands of dollars in renovations at her posh Los Angeles home, including building a new plunge pool and backyard sauna, according to a new report.

Patrisse Cullors, 39, the former leader of BLM Global Network Foundation, also added a play area for her young son outside her 2,580-square foot three-bedroom, three-bathroom home.

At the time of her May 2021 resignation, Cullors insisted her "retirement" from the group that she had led for six years had been in the works, and was not tied to the controversy surrounding the shopping spree in which she amassed four properties for more than \$3.2 million amid the group's troubled finances.

Cullors also used donations to pay a company owned by her baby daddy, Damon Turner, \$969,459 for "live production, design and media," according to the group's latest filings with the IRS.

Cullors chalked up the reports on her properties and spending as "right-wing bullying" and said that she had paid for her holdings with money she made from book and speaking deals.

Last month, the non-profit's new leader was accused of siphoning more than \$10 million in fees from

donors to pay his consulting firm, according to a lawsuit.

But the BLM leader, Shalomyah Bowers, told The Post the case against him is nothing more than a power grab by disgruntled activists trying to wrest control of the movement.

Bowers, who became head of the BLMGNF in April, is accused of paying the cash to his own Bowers Consulting Firm.

BLMGNF paid the Bowers Consulting Firm \$2,167,894 in 2021, according to federal tax filings.

Cullors didn't return requests for comment Saturday. Bowers refused comment, adding that the renovations were not related to BLMGNF.

-- New York Post October 8, 2022

### **Concealed Carrier Shoots Two Suspects during Attempted Car Theft in Chicago**

A concealed carry holder shot two men in Chicago amid what appeared to be a car robbery attempt, according to police.

The victim was walking to his car in the Chicago Loop around 3:30 a.m. on Saturday when a suspect fired shots at him from a red SUV. The man returned fire, causing the SUV to flee.

The victim was uninjured.

One of the suspects, a 26-year-old man, sought treatment at Northwestern Memorial Hospital for a gunshot wound to his knee, CWB Chicago reported; a red Jeep riddled with bullet holes was abandoned at the hospital emergency bay.

A second suspect, a 24-year-old man, sought treatment at Lurie Children's Hospital for a gunshot wound to his right buttock.

Both men are in custody. Police said they are looking for a third offender.

The shooting comes after another concealed carry holder shot three people who attempted to rob him in Chicago last week. An adult and two juveniles have been charged in connection with that attempted robbery.

Earlier this month, a business owner in the city shot a suspect who broke through his office's back door.-- National Review December 12, 2022

### **Court allows New York to enforce limits on guns on private property**

A federal appeals court on Monday allowed New York to restrict the carrying of firearms on private property.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals put on hold a judge's order that barred officials from enforcing part of the new law making it a felony to carry a gun on private property without the property owner's express consent.

It marked the latest instance of the court staying a ruling that had blocked large parts of the Concealed Carry Improvement Act, passed this year by the Democratic-led state legislature.

The law was enacted after the Supreme Court in declared for the first time that the U.S. Constitution protects a person's right to carry a handgun in public for self-defense.

Firearms owners and gun rights groups including Firearms Policy Coalition challenged a provision that made it a felony for a licensed gun owner to possess a firearm on any private property unless the property owner allowed it with a sign or by giving express consent.

U.S. District Judge John Sinatra, a Trump appointee, in a Nov. 22 decision concluded that provision violated the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms" and would "interfere with the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens who seek to carry for self-defense outside of their own homes." -- Reuters December 12, 2022

### **In kidnap plot against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, 3 men sentenced and plead for court's mercy**

Three men convicted of helping to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer were sentenced Thursday with the prosecution arguing they committed the most serious of crimes, an attack on democracy.

The men, the prosecution said, ultimately were seeking to inspire a U.S. civil war known as the boogaloo.

Judge Thomas Wilson sentenced Pete Musico to a minimum of 12 years in prison, his son-in-law, Joe Morrison, to 10, and Paul Bellar to 7.

The defendants were each consecutively sentenced for using a gun while committing a felony.

Consecutive sentences run one after another.

The state argued that Musico, 45, Morrison, 28, and Bellar, 24 — had joined with the ringleaders who plotted to kidnap Whitmer — Adam Fox and Barry Croft Jr., who were convicted in federal court — and were members of a group, the Wolverine Watchmen, that engaged in illegal activity.

Gov. Whitmer said that in a democracy, citizens resolve their differences through elections: "We debate, and then we vote." But the men who were being sentenced, she added, supported "a violent conspiracy" and terrorism, choosing actions that are antithetical to what makes "our nation strong and safe."

Lawyers for each defendant appealed unsuccessfully for lighter sentences, making the case that each man had First and Second Amendment rights, to speak their mind and possess firearms, and tried to show that they could be rehabilitated.

In addition, each made statements, expressing regret for their actions.

The judge listened to and acknowledged the pleas, but noted that hindsight was 20/20.

Whitmer was never physically harmed and no violence was committed, but the prosecution argued at sentencing that the men's actions were as bad as if they had.

-- Detroit Free Press Dec. 15, 2022

### **San Francisco will allow police to deploy robots that kill**

Supervisors in San Francisco voted Tuesday to give city police the ability to use potentially lethal, remote-controlled robots in emergency situations.

Opponents said the authority would lead to the further militarization of a police force already too aggressive with poor and minority communities.

The SFPD said it does not have pre-armed robots and has no plans to arm robots with guns. But the department could deploy robots equipped with explosive charges.

Supervisors amended the proposal Tuesday to specify that officers could use robots only after using alternative force or de-escalation tactics, or concluding they would not be able to subdue the suspect through those alternative means. Only a limited number of high-ranking officers could authorize use of robots as a deadly force option.

San Francisco police currently have a dozen functioning ground robots used to assess bombs or provide eyes in low visibility situations, the department says. They were acquired between 2010 and 2017, and not once have they been used to deliver an explosive device, police officials said.

Explicit authorization was required after a California law went into effect this year requiring police and

sheriffs departments to inventory military-grade equipment and seek approval for their use.

A federal program has long dispensed grenade launchers, camouflage uniforms, bayonets, armored vehicles and other surplus military equipment to help local law enforcement.

San Francisco police said late Tuesday that no robots were obtained from military surplus, but some were purchased with federal grant money.

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who voted in favor of the policy authorization, said he was troubled by rhetoric painting the police department as untrustworthy and dangerous.

Board President Shamann Walton said it made him not anti-police, but "pro people of color."

The SF Public Defender's office sent a letter Monday to the board saying that granting police "the ability to kill community members remotely" goes against the city's progressive values. The office wanted the board to reinstate language barring police from using robots against any person in an act of force.

The first time a robot was used to deliver explosives in the U.S. was in 2016, when Dallas police sent in an armed robot that killed a holed-up sniper who had killed five officers in an ambush. AP November 29, 2022

### **Here are the sidearms the US military has carried into battle since first taking on the British**

US soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are being issued the military's newest pistols, the Modular Handgun System, M17 and M18 variants, manufactured by Sig Sauer.

By November 2020 deliveries reached 200,000.

The M17 and the compact M18 variant are the latest in a long line of sidearms that US troops have carried into battle since 1776.

The American military's early sidearms were often privately owned. Officers usually had dueling pistols, while rank-and-file soldiers made due with whatever they could get from local gunsmiths. This led to an array of armaments with varying calibers and qualities.

The Continental Congress chose a direct copy of the British Model 1760 flintlock pistol. The Congress bought 2,000, dubbed the Model 1775, from the Rappahannock Forge in Virginia.

The .62-caliber smoothbore single-shot flintlock, which included an iron or ash ramrod under the barrel, is considered the first US Army-issued handgun.

After the Revolution, a new version, the Model 1805, was made at Harper's Ferry. This flintlock saw service in the War of 1812 and remained the US Army's standard-issue pistol for over 50 years.

In 1836, Samuel Colt revolutionized warfare when his first revolver design was patented.

The new weapon allowed a soldier to fire six bullets in as many seconds without pausing to reload. It also used percussion caps, which allowed soldiers to shoot reliably in wet weather.

Colt revolvers were in the US arsenal for much of the 19th century, with at least four designs — the Colt 1847, the Colt M1848 Dragoon, the Colt Army Model 1860, and the Colt Single Action Army — seeing service.

The Colt 1847, known as the "Walker" for the Texas Ranger who helped design it, was the first mass-produced revolver in US service.

The Walker and the Dragoon, another .44-caliber revolver adopted by US Army cavalry and mounted-infantry units, saw service in the Mexican-American War and on both sides of the US Civil War

The most popular Colt design of the 19th century was the Colt Army Model 1860, a .44-caliber revolver. It was used in large numbers by the Union and the Confederacy — 200,000 had been made by the time production ceased in 1873.

The invention of metallic cartridges again revolutionized firearms, eliminating the need for percussion caps, a separate powder container, and ramrods. Colt's most well-known model featuring this innovation was the Colt Single Action Army.

In 1911, the US military adopted what would become one of the most iconic firearms in history — the M1911. It was the standard-issue sidearm, with few changes, for all branches of the US military for more than 70 years.

In 1986, the military selected the Italian Beretta 92 as the new sidearm; it used the smaller 9 x 19 mm round, enabling it to carry 15 rounds in the magazine, double that of the M1911, but at the cost of less penetration power.

In service as the M9, the pistol was used by US troops for 30 years, but it had reliability problems.

In January 2017, Sig Sauer's P320 won the XM17 Modular Handgun

System competition. The pistol has two variants: the full-length M17 and the compact M18.

The pistols can be configured for different missions and have a rail on which accessories like lasers and optical sights can be mounted. Their standard capacity of 17 9-mm rounds can be increased to 21 with an extended magazine.

The Pentagon plans to buy 420,000 M17s and M18s for \$580 million over a 10-year period.

-- Business Insider November 24, 2022

### **New rifle, light machine gun headed to close combat troops**

Next year the Army plans to field a rifle and light machine combination that will replace the M4 carbine and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon for its close combat force.

The Marine Corps and Special Operations Command will have the option to adopt the new-caliber weapons.

That new caliber, a special 6.8mm round, is the biggest change that shooters will see. The Next Generation Squad Weapon program had industry competitors build the weapon around the round.

Sig Sauer won the \$4.7 billion weapon contract and Vortex Optics and Sheltered Wings working together won the \$2.7 billion NGSW-Fire Control. The M5 carbine replacement and the M250 SAW replacement, will allow users to shoot farther, faster with more accurate shots that are more lethal than the current 5.56mm round used in the two legacy weapons.

The close combat force includes infantry, scouts and combat engineers who support or deploy alongside infantry and scouts.

The rest of the force will continue to carry the M4 and M249 for the coming decade or longer.

Both weapons feature M-lock handguards, a Picatinny Rail for attaching shooting accessories, an ambidextrous safety and left-side accessible charging handle for the M250.

The two will also feature the NGSW-Fire Control, which is a computer-assisted optic that can provide aim correction, first focal plane optic, a disturbed reticle, ballistics computer and laser range finder. It also links wirelessly with current and future soldier electronics. — Defense News December 28, 2022

## **Prosecutor: Oath Keepers saw Jan. 6 as 'first battle' in war**

Four Oath Keepers charged with plotting to stop the transfer of presidential power from Donald Trump to Joe Biden accepted an "invitation to sedition" issued by the far-right extremist group's founder, a federal prosecutor said Monday at the start of a second trial.

Two weeks ago a different jury convicted Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes and Florida chapter leader Kelly Meggs of seditious conspiracy stemming from a mob's attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Troy Edwards said Rhodes issued a "call to action" before his followers carried out a violent plot to stop Congress from certifying Biden's electoral victory.

The defendants are Joseph Hackett of Sarasota, FL; Roberto Minuta of Prosper, TX; David Moerschel of Punta Gorda, FL; and Edward Vallejo of Phoenix. They are charged with several other felonies in addition to seditious conspiracy.

Their lawyers said group members never had a plan to attack the Capitol or stop Congress from certifying the Electoral College vote.

Moerschel's attorney said many Oath Keepers were elderly, out-of-shape men who were "playing military".

Prosecutors say Oath Keepers stashed guns at a hotel in Virginia for a "quick reaction force". On Jan. 6, two groups of Oath Keepers stormed the Capitol after thousands of other rioters breached the building. The guns stashed at the hotel were never deployed.

Rhodes and other Oath Keepers viewed the Jan. 6 attack as the "street fighting phase" and "just the first battle in a war," Edwards said. Hackett's attorney said the Oath Keepers came to provide security details at a "Stop the Steal" rally where Trump addressed a crowd of his supporters.

A defense lawyer accused prosecutors of presenting a "warped version" of the defendants' actions.

Hackett, Moerschel and other Oath Keepers approached the Capitol in a military-style stack formation before they entered the building, according to prosecutors. Minuta and his group from a second stack of Oath Keepers clashed with police after heeding Rhodes' call to race to the Capitol, Edwards said.

Minuta, a New York leader, believed the Oath Keepers were "part of a revolution," according to Edwards. The prosecutor said Minuta was "filled with rage about the election" that Trump falsely claimed was stolen from him.

Vallejo, an Army veteran and Rhodes ally, drove from Arizona to prepare with the "QRF" — the quick reaction force — at the hotel outside Washington. Jurors heard an audio recording of Vallejo talking about a "declaration of a guerilla war" on the morning of Jan. 6.

The four defendants "perverted the constitutional order" and conspired to "impose their views of the Constitution, their views of America, on the rest of the country," Edwards said.

While the convictions of Rhodes and Meggs were a major victory for the Justice Department, the question is whether prosecutors will persuade jurors to convict lower-level defendants.

Seditious conspiracy, a Civil War-era offense, can be difficult to prove, especially when the alleged plot is unsuccessful.

Another sedition trial is expected to begin later this month against former Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrio and other leaders of that extremist group.

- AP December 12, 2022

## **Army special operations rethinking force structure, tech**

The next year could prove pivotal for the Army's most elite forces, as ongoing experiments with force structure and how to best integrate technical expertise at the tactical level could reshape the way the service's special operations look and fight.

Commanding general of Army Special Operations Command Lt. Gen. Jon Braga explained that the increasing role that space and cyber operations play in competition and conflicts (such as the ongoing war in Ukraine) has necessitated a reconsideration of long-held truths. The recently-unveiled "influence triad" is a framework to help commanders consider special operations, space and cyber together in a modern-era "combined arms" model.

The command is experimenting with expanding the size of the Special Forces operational detachment-alpha from the traditional 12 soldiers to 16. Other efforts are underway to integrate all three branches of Army SOF at the battalion and brigade headquarters levels rather than keeping them siloed by branch as they currently are.

Braga also said that the command is experimenting with creating a new career field with a tech focus to help take some of the technical load off of the soldiers currently on the teams.

Other options could be on the table as well, such as restructuring the reserve component civil affairs and psychological operations formations. -- Defense News December 28, 2022

## **Black Homicide Rates Are Back at '90s Levels. The Problem Isn't the Guns.**

A study by the JAMA Network Open journal concluded that gun homicide rates among black men have exploded - about 55 black men were killed by firearms per 100,000, far beyond any other demographic group in America.

In fact homicide rates for black men have shot back up to the extremely high levels of the early 1990s. If black lives truly matter, stemming the sudden explosion in violent crime where black men are primarily the victims should be a priority.

Some crimes did go down during the COVID-19 pandemic. But violent crime in the U.S. shot up dramatically. Nearly two decades of declining violent crime rates were wiped out.

From The Wall Street Journal, on the JAMA report:

Since 1990, rates of gun-related homicide have been highest among black men aged 20 to 24, the analysis said, with 142 fatalities per 100,000 people in this group in 2021—a 74% increase since 2014.

Homicide rates are as much as 23 times higher among black men and as much as nearly four times higher among Hispanic men than among white men, the analysis said.

Chris Rees, a co-author of the JAMA study, said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal that for groups that have high homicide rates, "there are certain programs like violence prevention, firearm-buyback programs, and safe storage."

This hardly seems like a gun storage problem. After all, the cities that experienced the highest violent crime spikes have some of the strictest gun laws in the country. It's not like there has been some dramatic increase in firearm purchases to match the increases in homicides we are seeing.

Isn't it interesting that the start of this historic gun homicide surge coincided exactly with the rise of Black Lives Matter, "defund the police" protests, and urban riots?



The elite media, alongside woke activists, relentlessly pushed the "racial reckoning" narrative while cheerleading the "defund the police" movement and making excuses for the "mostly peaceful" riots.

It's no surprise that Minneapolis is one of the cities hit hardest by the violent crime spike.

As Zachary Faria wrote in The Washington Examiner :The city of Minneapolis, which started the summer of Black Lives Matter protests and riots, attempted to abolish its police department, even though 47% of black voters opposed the replacement Department of Public Safety and 75% of black voters thought the city should not cut down the size of its police force.

It's now looking like it's going to take an enormous effort, like the changes made in New York City in the late 1990s, to get this problem under control. As philosopher George Santayana observed, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. -- The Daily Signal December 8, 2022

## Black Guns Matter

By John Stossel

We know about Black Lives Matter. My new video is about a group called *Black Guns Matter*.

Maj Toure, a Philadelphia high school dropout turned activist, tells me he started it after he got tired of hearing people endless chanting, "Black lives matter" but saying nothing "when it's time for Black people to defend their lives."

Toure carries a gun wherever he goes.

"This is my human right," he says.

He encourages others to arm themselves, especially people who live in high crime neighborhoods.

I point out that means he wants more guns in places where there are already more shootings.

That's the point, says Toure. "The only thing that's going to stop evil are good, solid people strong enough to stop them."

He sells a T-shirt with the slogan "make criminals afraid again".

More guns in the hands of citizens, he says, deters criminals.

There is evidence for that. Economist John Lott, author of "More Guns, Less Crime," points out that crime usually drops in states that approve concealed carry laws. The explanation is that criminals in those states fear that their victims could be armed.

I push back at Toure, pointing out that more guns also may lead to more accidental shootings."

"That's under the assumption that those gun owners aren't getting training," replies Toure.

Training is what Toure does. In 2016, he held his first Black Guns Matter event.

His group now teaches classes all around America.

In my video, he tells his students, "No one's coming to save me! I have to save and protect myself and my family."

Last year, about 90% of gun stores reported an increase in sales to Black people.

"I made it so," says Toure. "Gun control is racist." Gun control was "started to literally stop Black people from having the means to defend themselves."

That is true. Before the Civil War, Tennessee changed its constitution to say that only "free white men" have a right to bear arms. Virginia banned Blacks from carrying "any firelock of any kind."

Later, when Blacks had access to firearms, there were fewer lynchings.

In his gun classes, Toure tells his students, "Follow the rules, and communicate with law enforcement." Black people must be extra clear that they have a gun to defend themselves.

Toure plans to teach as many people as he can about armed self-defense. All the facts and data are in favor of respect for the Second Amendment," he says, "especially in the Black community." -- Town Hall December 07, 2022

## Advocates Pressured CDC Officials in Private Meeting

By Stephen Gutowski

The Centers For Disease Control (CDC) deleted a reference to a study it commissioned after a group of gun-control advocates complained it made passing new restrictions more difficult.

The lobbying campaign culminated with a private meeting between CDC officials and three advocates last summer, a collection of emails obtained by *The Reload* show. Introductions from the White House and Senator Dick Durbin's (D., Ill.) office helped the advocates reach top officials at the agency after their initial attempt to reach out went unanswered.

The advocates focused their complaints on the CDC's review of studies that estimated defensive gun uses (DGU) happen between 60,000 and 2.5 million times per year in the United States—attacking criminologist Gary Kleck's work establishing the top end of the range.

"[T]hat 2.5 Million number needs to be killed, buried, dug up, killed again and buried again," Mark Bryant, one of the attendees, wrote to CDC officials after their meeting. "It is highly misleading, is used out of context and I honestly believe it has zero value – even as an outlier point in honest DGU discussions."

-- The Reload December 15, 2022

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LIBERTY, Freedom from restraint, in a general sense, and applicable to the body, or to the will or mind. [Websters 1828]

FREEDOM, A state of exemption from the power or control of another; liberty; exemption from slavery, servitude or confinement. [Websters 1828]

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"We do not owe our children wealth but we do owe them liberty." - John Adams

Farewell and Godspeed, Emerson!

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